

PREVENTING UNAUTHORIZED SWITCHING OF MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to preventing unauthorized switching of mobile communications service providers in a system using portable phone numbers that follow the customer, even when the customer switches mobile communications service providers. A portable phone number is associated with a customer and with a first mobile communications service provider. A record of this association is stored in, for example, a data store that is accessible by multiple communications service providers within a mobile communications network. When a request for porting the portable phone number to a new service provider is received, the request is analyzed to determine whether the customer has authorized the requested port. If the customer has requested and authorized porting by providing, for example, a password or a response to an authorization request, a new association between the new mobile communications service provider and the portable phone number is stored in the data store.